

To my fellow veterans:

My father, Harry Specter, was wounded in the Argonne in World War I. Years later, he watched helplessly from his home in Wichita, Kansas, as government troops turned on their own citizens – veterans no less – who had come to Washington to collect their promised wartime bonus.

When I think of our veterans, I think of my father and the rout of the Bonus Marchers, one of the most indelible images from the Great Depression. Today's returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan have their own needs and challenges. They should not have to wait for their "bonus."

John Kennedy said the best way to show appreciation for veterans is not just to "utter words and promises, but to live by them." In that spirit, and as a long-serving member of the Appropriations Committee and former chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, I have:

- Consistently supported large increases for the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget.
- Cosponsored the Dignified treatment of Wounded Warriors Act which seeks to address shortfalls in the treatment—including mental and emotional support—provided to our wounded soldiers and veterans.
- Supported advanced appropriations for the Veterans Health Administration to ensure the timely provision of healthcare.
- Led efforts to build and maintain veterans' hospitals and outpatient clinics throughout Pennsylvania.
- Secured funds for a national veterans' cemetery in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
- Secured stimulus funds to hire hundreds of veterans in construction jobs in Pennsylvania.
- Consistently fought for lower priced prescription drugs for our veterans.

When doctors at Philadelphia's VA Hospital bungled the radiation treatment of more than 100 veterans with prostate cancer, I immediately called for hearings. General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and I followed this with town hall meetings for hundreds of veterans in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

GETTING HELP

For questions or help with veterans' claims, please contact Verne Rider in Philadelphia at 215-597-7200; Bill Bayer in Pittsburgh at 412-644-5853; Zach Border in Harrisburg at 717-782-3951; Caitlin O'Connor in Erie at 814-453-3010; or Christopher Sheperis in Scranton at 570-346-2006

Caring for our veterans is the duty of a grateful nation. With you, I will continue to raise my voice on their behalf. As your Senator, I will always vote their interests.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter